The Southern PATRIOT

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Why Apologize To One?

An editorial from the LABOR NEWS, published by The Central Labor Union of Knoxville, Tenn. (A.F.L.), John Essary, Editor.

Last week His Excellency, Ras H. S. Imru, Ethiopian Minister to the United States, received an apology in Washington, D. C., after he had been asked to leave his box in Constitution Hall and "take a seat elsewhere."

The fact that the Ethiopian Government's Minister to the United States is, no doubt a man of high intellect, culture and good character means nothing at all. In all probability he is a devout Christian, most Ethiopians are, but that is of no consequence. His excellency may be honest and cooperative but why discuss a man in terms of little insignificant characteristics and qualities like honesty, culture, spiritual beliefs, etc., when it's the color of his skin that is all important.

The usher who asked the Envoy to sit "elsewhere" should be commended for his alertness in putting His Excellency in his place. Apparently he is a conscientious worker who doesn't believe in discrimination—why should be let a foreign Negro occupy a place that is off bounds for an American Negro?

The apology came from the American Association for the Advancement of Science with "profound regret" for a "serious affront . . ."

Apologizing to the Ethiopian Minister was a charitable act but to those who believe charity begins at home it was a hypocritical gesture. If these sensitive men of Science were sincere in their apology then they should send a "profound regret" letter to the ten million Negroes in America, for what happened to His Excellency Imru would have happened to any one of them had they been there.

In plainer words and in order to make our point clear, we just can't see any need, nor any cause for segregating people in this great supposed-to-be democracy of ours because of color or nationality. After all, isn't God just as happy over saving a black soul as he would be of saving a white soul?

Courts Act In Six States In Race Discrimination Cases

The past month was a time of much activity on the legal front in the fight against discrimination and segregation. Six states were involved: Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia, Georgia, Maryland and California.

Oklahoma became the second Southern State in two months to lower the race ban in the graduate schools of the State University. The Texas Supreme Court turned down an appeal for a writ of error in the celebrated case of Herman Sweatt who is seeking admission to the University of Texas Law School. In Atlanta, Ga., a Federal Judge granted an injunction restraining the Board of Education from paying white teachers more than Negro teachers. Members of the school boards and the superintendents of two Virginia counties will appear in a Federal Court in Richmond on October 22 to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for failure to comply with a July court order to provide educational opportunities for Negroes equal to those afforded white children. On the Atlantic coast a Federal Judge in Baltimore ruled that the Jim Crow dining car arrangements of Southern railroads are not a violation of the Constitution and do not constitute "real inequality". And out on the Pacific Coast a Federal Court in a three to one decision held that California's 98-year-old ban on interracial marriages was a violation of the equal protection of the law guaranteed by the Constitution.

OKLAHOMA

The Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma on October 11th decided to yield to a decision of a Federal court and admit a Negro to the graduate school of education.

G. W. McLaurin, 54-year old retired Negro professor had applied in January for admission to the graduate school to complete his studies for a doctor's degree in education. The state held that he could not be admitted and pointed to the state law banning mixed classes. McLaurin appealed to the courts for relief.

On September 29 a three-judge Federal Court ruled the state law unconstitutional. All three Judges are from Oklahoma. The decision read by Circuit Judge A. P. Murrah, with Judges Bower Broaddus and Edgar S. Vaught concurring, stated:

"Insofar as the Oklahoma statutes deny or deprive admission of the plaintiff to the university, they are unconstitutional and void. The plaintiff is entitled to secure a post-graduate education in this State by a State institution."

The decision held further: "We refrain at this time from granting injunctive relief on the assumption that the State will follow the law."

Attorney General Mac Williamson interpreted the ruling to mean that the state had two alternatives. It could admit McLaurin to the graduate school until Langston University, the Negro State institution, offered the desired courses, or it could suspend such graduate courses for whites until the courses were offered by Langston.

TEXAS

The Herman M. Sweatt case moved one step near the United States Supreme Court on September 29 when the State Supreme Court of Texas re-

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fused to grant a writ of error. Both the trial court and the Circuit Court of Appeals of Texas have denied the contention of the plaintiff that the segregation laws of Texas are unconstitutional and that the law school set up by Texas for Negroes is unequal to the facilities offered to white students at the University of Texas Law School. The Sweat case promises to become the most important of the many legal cases involving segregated schools. Attorneys for the NAACP have presented expert testimony to prove that segregated schools are per se discriminatory and unequal.

VIRGINIA

Members of the school boards and the school superintendents of King George and Glouchester Counties, Virginia, have been ordered by Judge Sterling Hutcheson of the Federal District Court to appear on October 22 to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court.

Last July Judge Hutcheson issued a permanent injunction ordering the two counties to equalize educational opportunities for colored children. His present action was in response to a petition filed by attorneys for the colored children in the two counties charging that counties had made some improvements since the permanet injunction was issued but had "made no serious effort" to comply with Judge Hutcheson's order.

The petition alleged that the principal and two teachers of the King George Training School for Negroes had been singled out for discipline and demotion presumably because of the court action.

Filing of the petition asking that the county officials be held in contempt followed an inspection of the Negro schools on the day school opened by a committee representing the NAACP, the Virginia Teachers' Association and ttorneys for the 30 pupils of the King George Training School. Finding the improvements in the school "wholly inadequate" an attempt was made to register in the white school.

A full page spread of pictures of the "inspection" was carried in the Richmond Times-Dispatch September 10.

According to the Times-Dispatch, an especially "dim view" was taken by the inspecting group of the 2,000-odd volumes added to the library. Among the "new" volumes added to the library of this rural school, they noted:

1. Report of librarian of Congress, 1905.
2. "Kladderadatsch", 1874, a book of verse in German. (The school has no course in foreign languages).
3. 1925 year book of the Carnegie Endowment of International Peace.
4. "Love Letters of a Worldly Woman", paper-backed novel.
5. "Technical Journal of the Bell Telephone System," October, 1937.
6. "The Rollo Code of Morals, or The Rules of Duty for Children," 1841.

GEORGIA

After 9 years of effort, during which time one teacher lost his job, because of his activities, the Negro school teachers of Atlanta won a vitcory in their fight for equal pay.

On September 28 Federal Judge E. Marvin Underwood of Atlanta issued an injunction restraining the Atlanta Board of Education from discriminating in teachers' salaries. "Salaries", the Judge stated, "may not be discriminatory of color or race".

Figures were cited showing average monthly salaries for high school principals: white, $340, Negroes, 240; elementary principals: white $254.14, Negroes $167.53; high school teachers: white, $198.45; Negroes, $145.65; elementary teachers: white, $160.19, Negroes, $112.38.

The Gate City Teachers Association under Prof. Chas. H. Harper, started the fight in 1939. The first suit was brought by William Reeves in 1941 who was promptly dismissed. The present case against the Board was started in 1943 by Samuel L. Davis, instructor at Booker T. Washington High School

Segregation In Transportation

By a 3 to 1 decision a United States District Court at Baltimore ruled on September 27 that segregation in dining cars of Southern railroads did not constitute "real inequality" of treatment.

The case arose in 1942 when Elmer W. Henderson of Baltimore asked for damages because he was denied dining car service.

Judge William C. Coleman and Judge W. Calvin Chesnut in their majority opinion declared:

"Racial segregation of interstate passengers is not forbidden by any provision of the federal constitution, the Interstate Commerce Act or any other act of Congress as long as there is no real inequality of treatment of those of different races."

The court found that present regulations set aside about 8 per cent of a dining car's capacity for Negro patrons who make up about 4 per cent of the patrons.

"This arrangement seems fair on its face," said Judge Morris A. Soper in his minority opinion. "But it is based on the erroneous assumption that the rights which the 14th amendment is designed to protect are racial rather than personal. Discrimination exists whenever a member of one race is denied service available to a member of another."

"Segregation," he further declared, "must be abandoned or at least temporarily suspended whenever its enforcement deprives the individual of treatment equal to that accorded to any other person at the same time."

Mixed Marriage Ban Held Unconstitutinoal In California

California's laws banning interracial marriages were declared unconstitutional by a 4 to 3 decsiion of the State Supreme Court. The majority decision, read by Justice Robert J. Traynor, stated that "marriage is something more than a civil contract, subject to regulation by the State. It is a fundamental right of free men."

"The right to marry," the decision stated, "includes the right to join in marriage with the person of one's choice and a statute prohibiting an individual from marrying a member of a race other than his own restricts the scope of his marriage and thereby restricts his right to marry."

The law prohibiting the inter-marriage of whites with Mongolians, Malayans, Negroes and other non-Caucasians, was placed in the State code in 1850 by California's first legislature. Twenty-nine other States have laws similar to that of California. This is believed to be the first time any court, State or Federal, has declared such laws unconstitutional.

The suit was brought by Andrea Perez, a white girl, and Sylvester S. Davis, a Negro graduate of Los Angeles City College, after the county clerk had refused them a marriage license.

How To Save 335,000 Lives

THE NATION'S HEALTH, A TEN YEAR PROGRAM, A Report to the President by Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, $1.00.

This is a comprehensive study of the nation's health resources, needs, and a plan for achieving those needs. A reasonable table of goals is set forth covering a ten year period.

A detailed and persuasive argument is presented to prove the need for a system of prepaid Government health insurance.

The urgency of the problem may be seen from one haunting fact, "each year 335,000 persons die in the United States whom we have the knowledge and the skill to save."

Good Health Can Be Bought

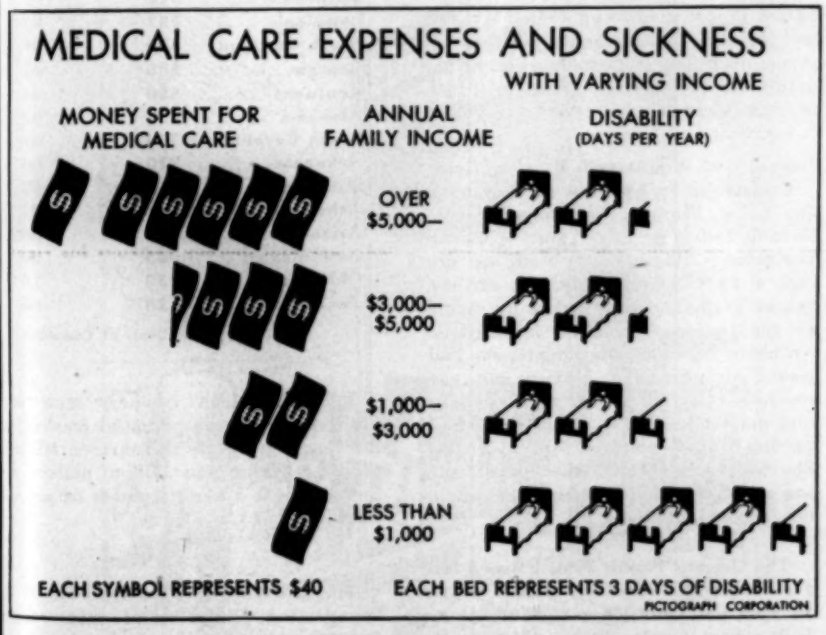
Good health depends on proper health services and there is a direct relationship between the comparative wealth of a given State and the health services available. States with the highest per capita income have the best hospital facilities, more doctors in proportion to the population, a higher percentage of births occuring in hospitals, a lower maternal and infant mortality rate. As the per capita income declines, the reverse is generally true.

In New York State, for example, there are 4.8 general hospital beds per thousand population, compared with only 1.9 in Mississippi. New York State had one physician for about every 500 persons, Mississippi one to every 1,300 persons; one dentist to every 1,300 persons in New York, compared to one to 5,200 in Mississippi; one nurse to every 450 persons in N. Y., compared to one for every 2,400 in Miss.; maternal deaths in N. Y., 1.2 per 1,000 live births, compared to 3.1 in Miss.

The key to this sharp contrast is the $1,600 per capita income in N. Y. (1946) compared to only $555 in Miss.

In 1939 the AMA estimated that an income of $3,000 a year was not adequate to pay the cost of a major or chronic illness. Because of rising costs it would require $5,000 in 1948 to have the same spending power as $3,000 in 1939. Nearly 80% of our families earn less than $5,000 and therefore would have difficulty in meeting the cost of a prolonged or serious illness.

In 1946 *the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that it required from* $2,500 *to* $3,000 *for a family of* 4 *persons to meet the essential living expenses. But in* 1946 *about half of the Nation's families, nearly* 70,000,000 *people, had incomes below* $3,000. *From these figures it is clear that about half of the population cannot afford to provide minimal health services for themselves or their families.*



From 140 MILLION PATIENTS, by Carl Malmberg

Negroes Suffer the Most

Negro families, being generally at the bottom of the economic scale, suffer the greatest health hazards.

In 1945 the death rate for Negroes was almost 50 percent higher than for whites, 13.6 per 1,000 compared with 9.2. Life expectancy for Negroes at birth was 17 percent less than for whites. Child mortality for whites was 31.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, for Negroes 49.5. In South Carolina the mortality rate for Negro mothers was 170-percent higher than for whites. This is related to the fact that only 14 percent of Negro births occurred in hospitals and 65.9 percent were attended by a midwife, while only 2.5 percent of white births were in this latter class.

Present conditions are proof that our traditional method of paying for medical care is inadequate. The first step toward a better system exists now in the voluntary health insurance plans. A health assembly early this year of several hundred specialists recommended a system of prepayment health insurance. The panel on Medical Care concluded:

"The principle of contributory health Insurance should be the basic method of financing medical care for the large majority of the American people, in order to remove the burden of unpredictable sickness costs, abolish the economic barrier to adequate medical services and avoid the indignities of a 'means test'".

Voluntary vs. Government Insurance

Voluntary plans are inadequate because they cannot provide service to the low income families that need it the most. Sixty percent of all Blue Cross hospital plan members live in six rich industrial States that contain about 36 percent of the population of the U. S. The South and West, with 43 percent of the total population, account for only 17 percent of Blue Cross members. Less than 3 percent of the rural population are subscribers.

A comprehensive system of health insurance would include hospitalization, surgical and obstetrical fees, including physicians' home and office calls, dental, nursing and laboratory services, and the partial financing of eyeglasses and more expensive drugs. The rates for such a comprehensive service on the basis of rates charged by the Blue Cross for lesser coverage is estimated at $130 to $200 a year. Only

(Continued on page 4)